

THE  
Humble and Healing

Advice of Collonel

Robert Overton

Governour of HULL.

TO  
CHARLES  
LORD  
FLEETWOOD,

And General  
MONCK,

And all other inferiour Officers of  
both Armies in *England and Scotland.*

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LONDON,  
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Robert Overton

Governor of H.M.P.

CHARLES

FLEET WOOD

MONCK

LONDON:  
Printed by W. for T. Cadogan, at the Crown



TO

His Excellency *Charles* Lord Fleet-wood, and the Right Honourable General *Monck*, and all other Inferiour Officers of both Armies in England and Scotland.

*The Humble Cautious Christian Exortatory seasonable, Healing and unyass'd Representation and Advrise of Colonel Robert Overton, Governour of Kingston upon Hull, a fellow-servant with you in the Cause of God and his Country, and one who desires to shew the effusion of blood amongst those who (in the midst of many enemies) are imbarqued together in one Publique and Christian Concern.*

*Right Honourable and beloved Brethren and fellow servants;*

**W**Hatever are our particular affectiones, inclinations and judgements, in respect of Forms and Constitutions, Civill and Ecclesiastick; yet the mark we all aim at, and the race we profess to run, is to serve the Lord, and to submit to his Scepter, who is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and the onely Lawgiver (by the Decree and determination of Heaven) throughout the world; but alas, darknesse is so intermixed with our light, and self is so interwoven with all our publique affaires and attempts, that Babel-like, our buildings are accompanied with nothing but confusion and contempt, which makes the Nations abroad to scoff and scorn, and our enemies at home to rejoyce in hopes of our ruine: and the Lord himself who

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waited to be gracious (but must be exalted in righteousness,  
(is forced to shake and shake, overturn and overturn; and  
yet in much mercy to his people) because no foundation is  
laid that either bears any proportion with what we professe,  
or otherwise answer the ends of God, in that new Creation  
he is about to form throughout the whole Universe, by re-  
storing of Judges as at the first, and Councillors as at the  
beginning, that righteousness may run down as a mighty  
stream, our Officers become peace, and our Exactors, right-  
eousnesse: In order to this, it hath pleased the Lord in the  
prosecution of his own purpose to potire us from Vessel to  
Vessel, and according to the prophesie of the last times  
(writ for our instruction; especially, upon whom are the  
ends of the World) hath been overturning and overturn-  
ing; and will overturn, till he come whose Right it is: How  
this alarm of the son of David hath been sounded in your  
ears by a faithfull Remnant, I need not reminde you; but  
what hath been the plain and positive providences of Jeho-  
va, I beseech you seriously collect and review; there hath  
not one of the many changes we have passed through, I ut  
it hath conveyed in it, either more directly or indirectly  
something of special and effectually tendency to the decay  
of the old, and increase of the new world; all the designs  
and contrivements of men, either of opposite principles or  
of opposite interest, the last (having rather wanted love to  
the Lord, then light in his work) have Dagon-like fallen  
before the interest of Christ and his people; and no wonder,  
for no weapon formed against either can prosper; upon this  
account, I will be bold to ascert in the light of the Lord,  
that the Thrones of Bishops, of the King, Parliaments and  
Protestors have been thrown down, and other principles  
and Interests (wherein many good men have been engaged)  
have also obviated a directing doome; the Lord had once  
raised up a generation of men after some overturnings, who  
in a measure of the power and spirit of Eliu, were upon lay-  
ing the foundation (a glance there was at least of the glory  
which shall be revealed) of this restitution spoken of in  
scriptures but an Apostacy like the sun under an Eclips  
interposed us, and the practical prosecution of that Reform-  
ation: I will not determinately ascertain the cause, pos-  
sibly

libly that Assembly, had more the name and the shew than the substance and reality of Christs Government: (for I judge as their convening together, respected the designs of some Instruments, they were mischievously mixed for other ends) and probably we were not fitted and spirited for such a dispensation under that Apostacy; the displeasure of the Lord faced the followers of it in all their undertakings, till that ruine and destruction so threatened the revenge of Justice, that necessity forced us to face about, but like bewildred *Israel* of old, we knew not where to pitch our Tents; at last, by the most general concurrence, the former famous long Parliament, in their best reduced capacity were judged the most apt expedient, at least towards present security if not settlement; who were a while beating about the bush; but though there be many pious, prudent and publick Patriots and spirits amongst them; yet they were so intermixed with the late Court Creatures and Kingling Champions, with persons of very opposite principles; that neither Christ, his Peoples, nor the Nations ends were likely to be answered: And I feare some were so misled by principles of a persecuting tendancy (though they may not otherwise have that hellish seed in their heart) for I cannot but honour the memory of many in that Assembly for the works sake, wherein they have been made Instrumentall; that endeavours were not closely wanting to bring all to bow to their *Faith*; and in order thereunto to wrest the Sword forth out of their hands, who I hope, more than accidentally, or necessitiously are sure gaurd to Gods people against the spirit of these Nations; which otherwise like an inundation, would break in upon them; upon this account (respecting his end, as in all other Changes) is the Lord pleased to pass them by either as uselesse or obstructors in his Work: What may be the designs, or ends of any who are the Instruments of this last dissolution; I shall leave to the Lord to finde out, who will cause the righteousness of the righteous to shine forth as the sun at noon day, and will reward the workers of iniquity, according to the evil of their doings: Now having taken the short survey of these providences and appearances of God, with incurance with scripture (may be of use to direct us in this dark day, I shall



apply my self more particularly to you, and from my heart do wish for *Sion* and these poore Nations sakes, that we may meet with such an expedient in righteousness, as may reconcile differences, and prevent the effusion of blood: and

And therefore, Right Honourable and deare Friends, the Council of the Officers of the Army in England, you are they who more especially then others, have been actually engaged in the great and various turns of State; by you instrumentally the foundations are put out of course, and the price of the blood and treasure, spilt and expended in the late Wars, lyes now in your hands; Christ calls upon you for his right, as the son of *David*, which your power hath possessed you of; The Saints (for whose sakes the Lord hath reprov'd all before you) expect that you should not keep them from their purchased possessions; they are the true royal heirs and are now at age; the fulnesse of time is coming, wherein they must take the Kingdome and possesse it; the poore peild people of these Nations, who have fed you with the bread of their Tables, they groan under those burthens which you were hyred to take off them, and are waiting for the travel of their bodies, and the return of their treasures: Take heed therefore, I beseech you, that you make not this an opportunity of advantaging and greatning your selves; have a care that no remainder of the spirit of Apostacy raise you up to your ruine; as it hath done others before: You are pluckt as brands out of the fire, and are in some manner made whole; sin then no more least a worse thing befall you; for the tree that is twice dead must be pluckt up by the roots, being fit for nothing but the fire; This I will aver to you from the Lord that you have now an opportunity, either (in mercy) of recovering the glory you had lost by your Apostacy or (in judgment) it is an occasion for your finall fall:

Consider that God is not mocked, his arme hath been bared in Judgment against the hypocrites of these times, and woe will befall you if you returne with the dog to the vomit; you see there is few that can fasten any faith upon you. Beware that your practices justify not the procedures of those in *Scotland*, for the blood that may be spilt will

will then lye at your doores, and the Lord will avenge it upon you, take heed of proportioning your choyce rather to your turns then truths; a little leaven leavens the whole lump; you know what Spirit hath been the bane of your apostacy, and the brand of all your practices and Professions, if you intermix politike time serving trucklers, with those who are Publique spirits, your Councell will prove abortive; look but a little back, and see how the Lord is cutting his work short in righteousness, as it was well observed by one, you can now Deceive none but your selves; I wish you may deceive them by well doing, all the Promises Professions and protestations you can make, will signifie nothing, it is only your actions that will honour you

A word to Generall Monck and the Officers under his Command in *Scotland*: Your Letters and Declarations I have seen and seriously considered, and am hartly sorry for any just occasion, that either may be given you, or which through misprisions you may have taken, to make such a breach in the body of the Army. I am very much afraid that in this matter you are under a bad influence, though you have a plausible pretence, and although I wish, and shall press after a right understanding betwixt you and the Army in *England*, yet in this your undertaking, I cannot bid you good speed; because by the observations I have already made, whatever you may pretend to the Church of Christ; you are unbargued with that Spirit and Interest which more Diametrically opposes the designe of God, in the Exaltation of his Sonne and Saints; then the present posture of the Army in *England* pretends. And therefore (though for my part I cannot altogether excuse them) they have a prevailing advantage against you, and though possibly not for their own, yet for *Sions* sake they will be enabled to foile you; I beseech you therefore to take heed of a painted designe, and drive not so furiously against the dispensation of God, though it be clouded with the weakness and failings of the instruments, we have great cause of jealousies that there was a faction prevailing in Parliament which would have proved pernicious to that which

(6)  
must prevaile: And although I did not concur with the  
Armyes proceed in their proposals for Generall Officers;  
yet I could neither well approve of their laying some ho-  
nest members of the Army aside, nor of the new conduct  
appointed; though I was one my selfe: The worst of men  
imbargued with the dispensation of God, (though they  
have also designs of their own) will prevaile over those  
who may be more innocent then themselves, but in con-  
junction with an opposite interest, I will not make this the  
case in respect of persons, though it may as relating to  
things; this is a shaking overturning dispensation as I have  
promized, and you may observe, and it is of very dangerous  
consequence, to endeavour upholding any thing that  
God is throwing down. I shall therefore conclude with an  
interpository word to both Councells, and begin between  
you; As *Abraham* did to *Lot*. You are brethren, why should  
you disagree by a good meditation between you the designs  
on either side might receive a check, which Conquest would  
Crown their mediums; wherein you might better meet  
at blowes, you can play no other then your Common Ar-  
mies gain by your contests; however take heed of any uni-  
on from the rock of Ages, all confederacies short of or a-  
gainst that will be shattered to peices; comply with the best  
expedient to that end, and the hearts and hands of the  
faithfull will be with you; otherwise you may be assured  
from the Lord, that another overturne will suddenly o-  
vertake you, and I question then whether ever you will  
have an opportunity to cause the Nations following to praise  
you; the binding up of this breach is that I very much  
breath after, I fear there is not so much sincerity on either  
side as can ballest the blood that may be spilt, if you pro-  
ceed against each other, for my own part in pursuance of  
that trust committed to me, I shall endeavour to secure the  
peace of this place, and be ready to comply with and coun-  
tenance that, which hath most of the image and super-  
scription of Christ upon it; and in the meane time, mourn  
over your sinfull selfish spirit which provokes the Lord thus  
to rend and reare us in pieces. *The Heathen rage and the  
people imagine a vain thing, Psal. 2. 1. But kisse the Son lest he  
be angry and ye perish from the way, Psal. 2. and last.*

FINIS.